

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-7, 15-45 and 58-78 are currently pending. Claims 73-78 are hereby added. Claims 1, 15, 22, 34, 58 and 70 are independent and are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7, 15-45, and 58-72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,154,534 to Seki et al. (hereinafter, merely "Seki") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0040592 of Foreman et al. (hereinafter, merely "Foreman").

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 is representative and recites, *inter alia*:

“providing for recording video image data for each of a plurality of takes of a particular scene;
...
displaying for selection the plurality of takes of the particular scene;
...
selecting one of the displayed plurality of takes for the particular scene.”

That is, images from multiple takes of a particular scene are recorded. The multiple takes are displayed for selection of one of the takes for the particular scene.

In FIG. 17 of the present application, the scene shooting in step F204 can be repeated. Specifically, the scene shooting is performed multiple times to generate take 1, take 2, . . . until the video shooter is satisfied with the shot. In other words, after a particular scene is selected in step F201, every time the scene shooting is performed in step F204, video image data is managed and recorded as video image data for the selected scene. When the shooting is done multiple times while the same scene is selected, pieces of video image data are managed as take 1, take 2, . . . of the same scene.

Subsequent to the shooting, the multiple takes are edited. When a plurality of takes is produced, a take selection screen is displayed and one of the takes is selected for the scene.

Publ. App. pars. [0307]-[0312] and FIG. 17.

In an example from the specification,

“FIG. 14(b) shows take 1 of the video image data SC#2(R) and take 1 and take 2 of the video image data SC#4(R), which are shot while scenes #2 and #4 are selected. Each take lasts a period slightly longer than the preset period of the corresponding scene. In order to arrange these takes in the sequence of the content project data, these takes must be trimmed so as to match the preset time length in the scene setting data SC#2(P) and SC#4(P).” Publ. App. par. [0314]

“When a plurality of takes is produced for a particular scene, the take selection processing is performed to select which take to use. For example, for scene #4, take 1 and take 2 are produced. Referring to FIG. 19(a), the system controller 11 reads pieces of video image data of take 1 and take 2 (take 1 and take 2 of SC#4(R)) and displays the read video data on the LCD 29.” Publ. App. par. [0319] and FIGS. 17-19.

Neither Seki nor Foreman teaches or suggests the additional elements recited in claim 1. The additional elements have not previously been considered in the Office Action.

Claim 1 is patentable over Seki and Foreman because those references taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest each and every element recited in the claim.

For reasons similar or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 15, 22, 34, 58 and 70 are also believed to be patentable.

III. NEW CLAIMS

Claims 73-78 have been added.

Claims 73 and 76 add to claims 1 and 22, respectively, the feature, “automatically terminating recording video image data for a particular one of the plurality of video takes after a time period based on the timeline set in the template for the scene.”

The timeline for each scene is set in advance in the template. That is, each scene has a specified length of time for images in the scene. Publ. App. par. [0167]. The length of time for shooting images is detected from timeline information set in the scene setting data. The shooting of images for takes of the scene is automatically terminated based on the time from the timeline for shooting the scene. Publ. App. par. [0305].

This feature provides the advantage that the “video shooter need not pay special attention to the shooting period and may concentrate on the shooting operation, such as the state of the subject of shooting, and operations including a zoom and a pan.” Publ. App. par. [0306].

Claims 74 and 77 provide for allowing images to be captured for a period of time slightly longer than the time specified in the time line for the scene before automatically terminating the capturing of images for the take of the scene. Each take lasts a period slightly longer than the preset period of the corresponding scene. These takes must be trimmed so as to match the preset time length in the scene setting data. Publ. App. pars. [0306] and [0314].

Claims 75 and 78 provide an approximate number of seconds longer than the time specified in the time line before automatically terminating the capturing of images. Publ. App. par. [0306].

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-7, 9-45 and 47-72 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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